



## Visitor Programs and Events –Fall 2014

### Sandy Hook

#### Continuing Programs

##### **Sandy Hook Lighthouse & Keepers Quarters and Visitor Center**

**Daily, 9 am - 5 pm**

The 1883 Keepers Quarters has exhibits on New Jersey Lighthouses. Tours are first-come first-served starting at 1 pm with the last tour at 4:30 pm. You must be at least 48 inches tall to climb the tower. A video in the adjacent barn is always open.

##### **Battery Potter**

**Saturdays, September 6- 27**

**1:30 pm - 4:30 pm**

Explore and tour one of Sandy Hook's oldest gun batteries. Completed in 1895 it was the first concrete disappearing gun battery built in the United States.

##### **Mortar Battery**

**Sundays, September 7-28**

**1:30 pm - 4:30 pm**

Completed in 1894 the Sandy Hook Mortar Battery was the first Endicott Era concrete mortar battery built in the United States as part of New York Harbor's defense against enemy attack from the sea.

##### **Nike Missile Radar Site**

**Parking Lot L at Horseshoe Cove**

**Saturday, Sept. 6, 12 pm – 4 pm**

**Sunday, Sept. 14, 12 pm – 4 pm (Cold War Day)**

**Saturday, Sept. 27, 12 pm – 4 pm**

**Sunday, Oct. 5, 12 pm – 4 pm**

**Saturday, Oct. 18, 12 pm – 4 pm**

**Sunday, Oct. 26, 12 pm – 4 pm**

**Saturday, Nov. 1, 12 pm – 4 pm**

**Sunday, Nov. 9, 12 pm – 4 pm**

**Saturday, Nov. 15, 12 pm -4 pm**

#### **Programs and Events September**

##### **Canoeing on Sandy Hook Bay**

**U.S. Life-Saving Station Parking Lot (between Lot D and Lot E)**

**Saturday, September 6**

**9:15 am-12 pm**

Take a two-mile morning paddle to explore Sandy Hook bay from an ideal vantage point—the water itself. Rangers guide you on a two and a half hour tour of the bayside waters and Skeleton Hill Island. Free, call 732-872-5970 to reserve.

##### **Seining on Sandy Hook Bay Horseshoe Cove**

**Saturday, Sept. 6**

**10am – 11:30 am**

Join a park ranger to seine the waters of Sandy Hook Bay. Many saltwater creatures migrate to warmer waters to mate, reproduce and find food. It is the perfect time of year to observe these animals before they head south for the season.

##### **Irongirl Triathlon**

**Sunday, Sept. 7**

**7 am - 12 pm**

The triathlon is being held once again at Sandy Hook. Come cheer on over 3,000 participants in this swim/bike/run event which supports breast cancer research. For more information, visit [www.irongirl.com](http://www.irongirl.com).

##### **Harvest Moon Prowl**

**Beach Plaza Lot E**

**Sunday, Sept. 7**

**7 pm – 8:30 pm**

Bring a flashlight for this night walk that utilizes the five senses. Call (732) 872-5970 to make reservations. ♥1 mile



*Celebrating 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Lighthouse*

##### **Stars of Sandy Hook**

**Beach Lot E**

**Saturday, Sept. 13**

**7:30 pm – 9 pm**

Join a ranger and learn how to read a star chart and how to find the most brilliant stars of the night. Several telescopes will be set up in beach parking lot E to view the stars of Sandy Hook. Call (732) 872-5970 to make reservations.

##### **Battery Gunnison/New Peck Restoration**

**Saturday, Sept. 13**

**12 pm - 6 pm**

The Army Ground Forces Association (AGFA) is a volunteer group in WWII-era uniform restoring and interpreting Battery Gunnison/New Peck. Visitors are invited to stop by to chat and learn more about Battery Gunnison/New Peck, the defense of NY Harbor and Fort Hancock's activities in September 1943 during this restoration work day.

♥ *The heart symbol indicates an activity that will get your heart going-- join us for hikes, walks, and paddles to get you pumped.*

**Seining on Sandy Hook Bay  
Horseshoe Cove  
Saturday, Sept. 13  
10 am – 11:30am**

Join a park ranger to seine the waters of Sandy Hook Bay. Many saltwater creatures migrate to warmer waters to mate, reproduce and find food. It is the perfect time of year to observe these animals before they head south for the season.

**Cold War Day  
Parking Lot L at Horseshoe Cove  
Sunday, Sept. 14  
12 pm – 4 pm**

Visit a Nike Missile Radar site restored to the time of the Cuban Missile Crisis. Visit and tour the Nike launch site. Learn about why these sites were essential to national security in the Cold War era.

**Canoeing on Sandy Hook Bay  
U.S. Life-Saving Station Parking Lot (between Lot D and Lot E)  
Sunday, September 14  
9:15 am - 12 pm**

Take a two-mile morning paddle to explore Sandy Hook bay from an ideal vantage point—the water itself. Rangers guide you on a two and a half hour tour of the bayside waters and Skeleton Hill Island. Free, call 732-872-5970 to reserve.

**Seining on Sandy Hook Bay  
Horseshoe Cove  
Saturday, September 20  
10 am – 11:30 am**

Join a park ranger to seine the waters of Sandy Hook Bay. Many saltwater creatures migrate to warmer waters to mate, reproduce and find food. It is the perfect time of year to observe these animals before they head south for the season.

**Canoeing on Sandy Hook Bay  
U.S. Life-Saving Station Parking Lot (between Lot D and Lot E)  
Sunday, Sep. 21  
9:15 am - 12 pm**

Take a two-mile morning paddle to explore Sandy Hook bay from an ideal vantage point—the water itself. Rangers guide you on a two and a half hour tour of the bayside waters and Skeleton Hill Island. Free, call 732-872-5970 to reserve.

**Fall Equinox Walk  
Guardian Park  
Tuesday, September 23  
6 pm – 8 pm**

It is called the equinox because it's one of two days in the year when daylight and darkness agree to equally share the 24 hours in a day. Truth or myth - you can balance a raw egg on its end. Not sure, but it's a great day for an early evening walk on the Hook. Free, call Megan at the American Littoral Society at (732) 291-0055 or [megan@littoralsociety.org](mailto:megan@littoralsociety.org) to make reservations. ♥1 mile.

**Boy Scout Environmental  
Science Merit Badge Program  
NJ Sea Grant Consortium,  
Building 22  
Saturday, September 27  
10 am – 3 pm**

Explore the maritime environment to earn the BSA badge and learn about ecology through seining in the bay, surveying marsh vegetation, water chemistry on the beach, and discovering the impacts of thermal, oil, and other pollution through interactive laboratory experiments with NJ Sea Grant Consortium educators. Open to individual boy scouts. Fee. Go to [www.njseagrants.org/education/scout-programs](http://www.njseagrants.org/education/scout-programs) or call 732-872-1300, ext. 20.

**Canoeing on Sandy Hook Bay  
U.S. Life-Saving Station Parking Lot (between Lot D and Lot E)  
Saturday, Sept. 27  
9:15 am-12 pm**

Take a two-mile morning paddle to explore Sandy Hook bay from an ideal vantage point—the water itself. Rangers guide you on a two and a half hour tour of the bayside waters and Skeleton Hill Island. Free, call 732-872-5970 to reserve.

**Lighthouse to Lighthouse Tour  
Sandy Hook Keepers' Quarters  
Sunday, Sept. 28  
5 pm to 7 pm**

Climb the Sandy Hook Lighthouse starting at 5 p.m., then car caravan over to Twin Lights State Historic Site in the Highlands to climb the south tower there. Please call (732) 872-5970 to make reservations.

**Seining on Sandy Hook Bay  
Horseshoe Cove  
Sunday, Sept. 28  
10am – 11:30am**

Join a park ranger to seine the waters of Sandy Hook Bay. Many saltwater creatures migrate to warmer waters to mate, reproduce and find food. It is the perfect time of year to observe these animals before they head south for the season.

**Coastal Naturalist Series  
Monday, Sept. 29  
5:30 pm - 8 pm**

Re-discover New Jersey's coast with professional naturalists. Class meets at Sandy Hook to explore the beach, bay, marsh, and maritime forest. Learn to recognize plants and animals found in coastal habitats. Series includes: coastal botany, birding for beginners (binoculars provided), and estuarine fish and invertebrate identification. Ideal for nature enthusiasts and educators. Participants will receive a copy of our coastal field guide. Fee: \$99

## October

### Coastal Naturalist Series

**Saturday, Oct. 4**

**8:30 am – 11 am**

Re-discover New Jersey's coast with professional naturalists. Class meets at Sandy Hook to explore the beach, bay, marsh, and maritime forest. Learn to recognize plants and animals found in coastal habitats. Series includes: coastal botany, birding for beginners (binoculars provided), and estuarine fish and invertebrate identification. Ideal for nature enthusiasts and educators. Participants will receive a copy of our coastal field guide. Fee: \$99

### Coastal Naturalist Series

**Monday, Oct. 6**

**5:30 pm - 8 pm**

Re-discover New Jersey's coast with professional naturalists. Class meets at Sandy Hook to explore the beach, bay, marsh, and maritime forest. Learn to recognize plants and animals found in coastal habitats. Series includes: coastal botany, birding for beginners (binoculars provided), and estuarine fish and invertebrate identification. Ideal for nature enthusiasts and educators. Participants will receive a copy of our coastal field guide. Fee: \$99

### Monarch Butterfly Walk

**Beach Plaza Lot E**

**Saturday, Oct. 11**

**10 am – 11:30 am**

This remarkable insect, whose migration route ends in Mexico, is featured on a ranger-led tour. Please call 732-872-5970 to make reservations. ♥ 1 mile

### New Jersey Lighthouse Challenge Weekend

#### Sandy Hook Lighthouse

**Saturday, Oct. 18, 8 am - 6 pm**

**Sunday, Oct. 19, 8 am - 6 pm**

The Sandy Hook Light is one of the eleven New Jersey Lighthouses along the Atlantic coastline and Delaware Bay open for tours this weekend at this annual event sponsored by the NJ Lighthouse Society. For more information, visit <http://www.njlhs.org>.

### Monmouth County Audubon Society Fall Bird Walk

**Spermaceti Cove Parking Lot  
(between Lot D and Lot E)**

**Sunday, Oct. 19**

**10 am – 12 pm**

Join MCAS for a walk along the ocean and bayside to look for fall migrants. Wear comfortable shoes and bring binoculars. Free.  
♥ 1 mile

### FORT HANCOCK DAYS WEEKEND

Mark the anniversary of the 1895 establishment of Fort Hancock and discover the fort's role in the defense of our nation.

#### World War II Harbor Defense Lantern Tour

**Fort Hancock Museum**

**Friday, Oct. 24**

**6:30 pm - 9:30 pm**

Volunteer living historians from the Army Ground Forces Association (AGFA) in uniform as World War II coast artillery soldiers will take you for a walk that includes several seacoast gun batteries of Fort Hancock, highlighting the restored Battery Gunnison/New Peck. Bring a flashlight. ♥1.5 miles

### Clean Ocean Action

#### 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Beach Sweep

**Lot Delta (Seagull's Nest Lot)**

**Saturday, Oct. 25**

**9 am - 12:30 pm**

Spend a morning cleaning Sandy Hook's beaches. Bring gloves, attend rain or shine, and dress for the weather. Closed, hard-soled shoes are recommended. Individuals, families, and organized groups of all ages are welcome. Groups of 10 or more are asked to register with Clean Ocean Action in advance by visiting [CleanOceanAction.org](http://CleanOceanAction.org). Call 732-872-0111 for more information.

### Boy Scout Oceanography Merit Badge Program

**NJ Sea Grant Consortium,  
Building 22**

**Saturday, Oct. 25**

**10 am – 2 pm**

Discover the secrets of the ocean and earn the BSA badge by seining in the bay, collecting plankton, studying waves and currents, and participating in interactive laboratory experiments with NJ Sea Grant Consortium educators. Open to individual boy scouts. Fee. Go to

[www.njseagrants.org/education/scout-programs](http://www.njseagrants.org/education/scout-programs) or call 732-872-1300, ext. 20.

### Fort Hancock Day Battery Gunnison/New Peck in World War II

**Sunday, Oct. 26**

**12 pm – 4:30 pm**

Volunteer living historians in WWII uniform from the Army Ground Forces Association (AGFA) bring Battery Gunnison/New Peck and its 6-inch guns to life. Learn about the defense of NY Harbor and a Fort Hancock soldier's life during October 1943. Participate in loading the guns, tracking ships and "artillery math." Learn about 1940's metal working machines and see machinists making parts for these historic M1900 6-inch rifles. See restored 1920's – 1940's communications and interior electric systems. Learn about Fort Hancock Army medical support.

**American Littoral Society  
Spooky Tales/ Ghosts of  
Historic Fort Hancock  
Officer's Row, Building 18  
Thursday, October 30  
7:30 pm - 10 pm**

Get into the Halloween Spirit on this moonlight walk around Historic Fort Hancock where ghosts have been known to linger. Cider and fall snacks will be provided. Bring flashlights. Cost: \$5 per person. Reservations required: contact Megan at 732-291-0055 or [megan@littoralsociety.org](mailto:megan@littoralsociety.org) ♥2 miles

**NOVEMBER**

**Monmouth County  
Audubon Society  
Fall Bird Walk  
Parking Lot M  
Saturday, Nov. 15  
8 am – 10 am**

Join MCAS to learn about the bird banding project at Sandy Hook. Wear comfortable shoes and bring binoculars. Free. ♥ 1 mile

**Holly Forest Ramble**

Beach Plaza Lot E  
Saturday, Nov. 15  
2 pm – 3:30 pm  
A ranger-led walk through Sandy Hook's maritime holly forest at a prime time to visit the area. Learn how the plants and animals in this habitat adapt to extreme climate conditions.  
♥ 1 mile

**Surf Fishing Clinic**

**Building 18  
Saturday, Nov. 22  
8 am – 10 am**

Join American Littoral Society Tagging Director, Jeff Dement, for a day of surf fishing and instruction on the beach at Sandy Hook. Instructional skills include casting, knot tying, lure/bait selection, and “reading” a beach. All skill levels are welcomed. Rods, reels and tackle will be provided, but bring your own equipment if you have it. Children under 18 are welcome with a supervising adult. Coffee and doughnuts will be provided but please bring your lunch. Space is limited. Call Jeff Dement at 732-291-0055 or [jeff@littoralsociety.org](mailto:jeff@littoralsociety.org) to make a reservation. Fees: \$20 per Member Family, \$40 per Non-Member Family.

END OF LISTINGS